U.S. Department of the Interio
Bureau of Land Management

Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-NV-L010-2010-0031-EA
May 2010

Santa Maria de Los Angeles # 2
Oil Well

Location:
Applicant/Address:

Geyser Petroleum Inc.
345 Miron Dr.
Southlake, Texas 76095

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BLM

NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC LANDS

Santa Maria de Los Angeles # 2 Environmental Assessment

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

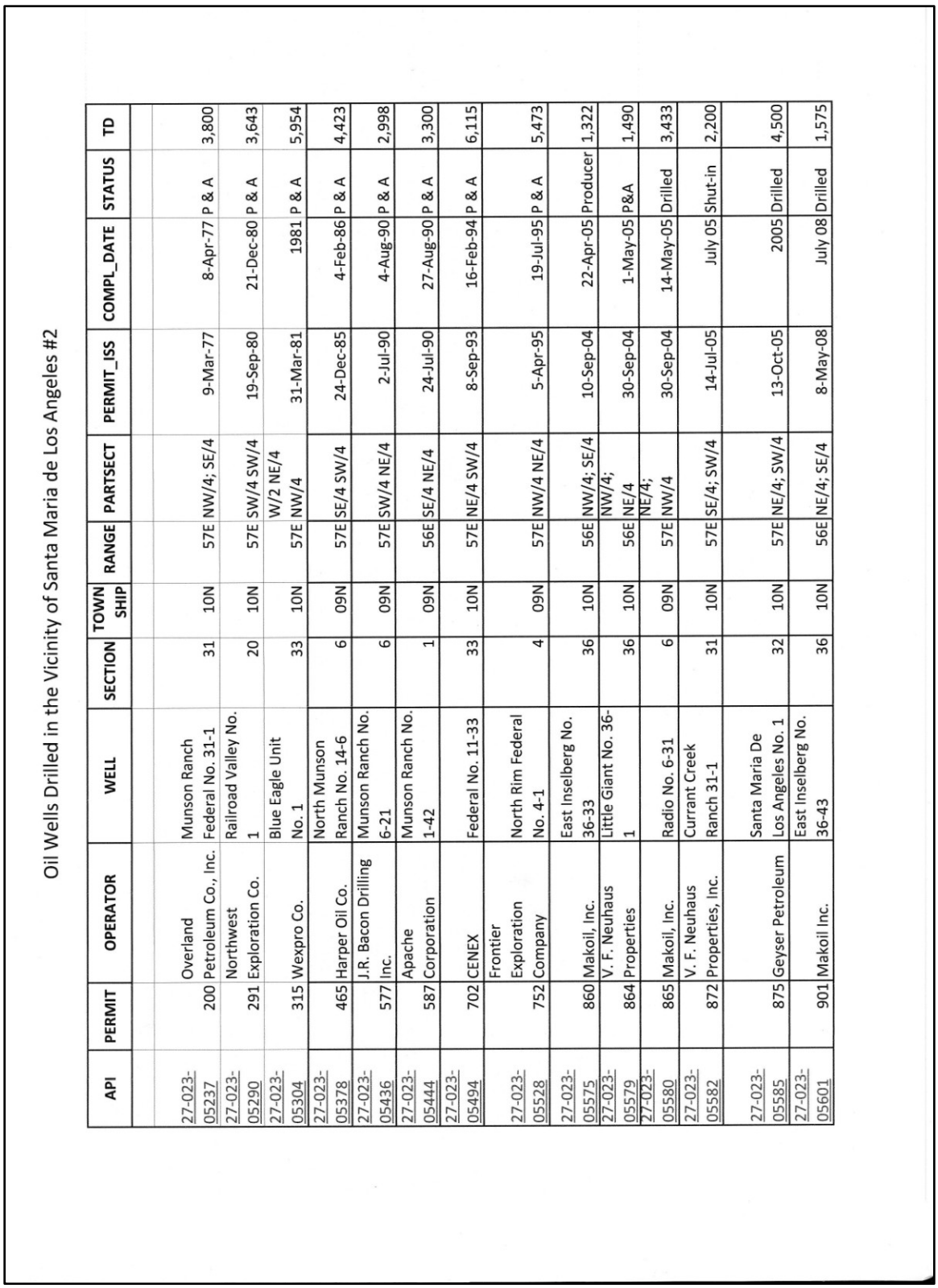
On March 26, 2010, the Egan Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management received an Application for Permit to Drill (APD) from Geyser Petroleum, Inc. to drill a wildcat exploration oil and gas well, Santa Maria De Los Angeles #2, in Section 32, T. 10 N., R. 57 E., MDBM. This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to analyze potential site-specific impacts that could result from the implementation of the proposed action or alternatives to the proposed action. The EA assists the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in project planning and ensuring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and in making a determination as to whether any "significant" impacts could result from the analyzed actions. "Significance" is defined by NEPA and is found in Chapter 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §§1508.27. An EA provides evidence for determining whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a statement of "Finding of No Significant Impact" (FONSI).

This document is tiered to the *Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement* (RMP/EIS) released in November 2007. Should a determination be made that implementation of the proposed or alternative actions would not result in "significant environmental impacts" or "significant environmental impacts beyond those already addressed in the RMP/EIS", a FONSI will be prepared to document that determination, and a Decision Record issued to provide the rationale for approving the chosen alternative.

1.1 Background:

The proposed oil well is an offset to Santa Maria de Los Angeles # 1 that was drilled by Geyser Petroleum, Inc. under an agreement with Sawyer Oil and Gas in 2005. An Environmental Assessment (EA NV-040-05-015) had been completed for Santa Maria de Los Angeles # 1 and the Decision Record, Finding of No Significant Impacts signed in October 2005. Both wells are on Oil and Gas Lease N62717, approximately 8 miles southwest of Currant, in Nye County, Nevada – as shown in Figure 1.

The project area is along the eastern center of Railroad Valley where oil and gas activities have attempted to develop oil production northeast of the Trap Springs Oil Field. Approximately 14 wells have been drilled within approximately two miles of the proposed Santa Maria de Los Angeles #2 location. Information tabulated by the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (2009) is listed in the following table.



Oil Wells Drilled in the Vicinity of Santa Maria de Los Angeles #2

API	PERMIT	OPERATOR	WELL	SECTION	TOWNSHIP	RANGE	PARTSECT	PERMIT_ISS	COMPL_DATE	STATUS	TD
27-023-05237	200	Overland Petroleum Co., Inc.	Munson Ranch Federal No. 31-1	31	10N	57E	NW/4; SE/4	9-Mar-77	8-Apr-77	P & A	3,800
27-023-05290	291	Northwest Exploration Co.	Railroad Valley No. 1	20	10N	57E	SW/4 SW/4	19-Sep-80	21-Dec-80	P & A	3,643
27-023-05304	315	Wexpro Co.	Blue Eagle Unit No. 1	33	10N	57E	W/2 NE/4 NW/4	31-Mar-81	1981	P & A	5,954
27-023-05378	465	Harper Oil Co.	North Munson Ranch No. 14-6	6	09N	57E	SE/4 SW/4	24-Dec-85	4-Feb-86	P & A	4,423
27-023-05436	577	J.R. Bacon Drilling Inc.	Munson Ranch No. 6-21	6	09N	57E	SW/4 NE/4	2-Jul-90	4-Aug-90	P & A	2,998
27-023-05444	587	Apache Corporation	Munson Ranch No. 1-42	1	09N	56E	SE/4 NE/4	24-Jul-90	27-Aug-90	P & A	3,300
27-023-05494	702	CENEX	Federal No. 11-33	33	10N	57E	NE/4 SW/4	8-Sep-93	16-Feb-94	P & A	6,115
27-023-05528	752	Frontier Exploration Company	North Rim Federal No. 4-1	4	09N	57E	NW/4 NE/4	5-Apr-95	19-Jul-95	P & A	5,473
27-023-05575	860	Makoil, Inc.	East Inselberg No. 36-33	36	10N	56E	NW/4; SE/4	10-Sep-04	22-Apr-05	Producer	1,322
27-023-05579	864	V. F. Neuhaus Properties	Little Giant No. 36-1	36	10N	56E	NW/4; NE/4	30-Sep-04	1-May-05	P&A	1,490
27-023-05580	865	Makoil, Inc.	Radio No. 6-31	6	09N	57E	NE/4; NW/4	30-Sep-04	14-May-05	Drilled	3,433
27-023-05582	872	V. F. Neuhaus Properties, Inc.	Currant Creek Ranch 31-1	31	10N	57E	SE/4; SW/4	14-Jul-05	July 05	Shut-in	2,200
27-023-05585	875	Geyser Petroleum	Santa Maria De Los Angeles No. 1	32	10N	57E	NE/4; SW/4	13-Oct-05	2005	Drilled	4,500
27-023-05601	901	Makoil Inc.	East Inselberg No. 36-43	36	10N	56E	NE/4; SE/4	8-May-08	July 08	Drilled	1,575

Table 1. Lists information about oil wells near Santa Maria del Los Angeles #2.

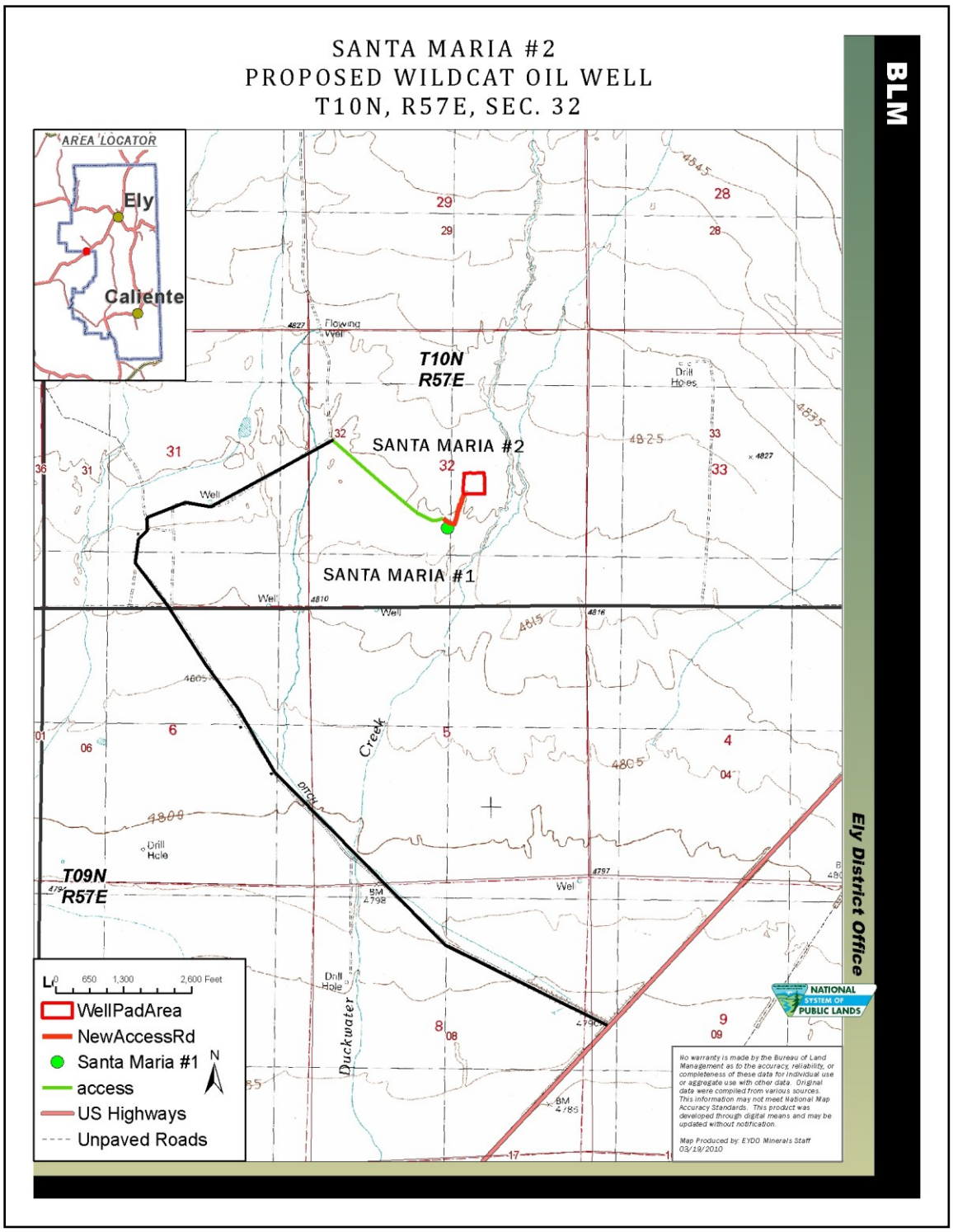


Figure 1: Map showing the location of Santa Maria de Los Angeles #1 (drilled) and #2 (proposed) well pad locations, access roads, and Flowing Well water source.

1.2 Purpose of the Proposed Action:

The BLM's purpose in considering approval of the application to drill an exploration oil well is to provide legitimate use of the public lands to the proponent. Legitimate uses are those that are authorized under the Federal Lands Management Policy (FLPMA) of 1976 or other Public Land Acts and meet the proponent's objective while preventing undue and unnecessary degradation.

The purpose of the Santa Maria de Los Angeles # 2 well is to test for oil and gas. Should a discovery be made, the well would be put into production with no additional ground disturbance. This NEPA analysis will evaluate both the exploration drilling and potential production of the Santa Maria de Los Angeles # 2 well location, if successful and desirable, subject to existing oil and gas regulations. A discovery may likely lead to additional drilling and perhaps development of a field, all of which would require additional NEPA analysis.

1.3 Need for the Proposed Action:

The BLM needs to consider approval of the application for drilling oil well to respond to its mandate under the FLPMA to manage the public lands for multiple uses. This must be in a manner that recognizes the Nation's need for more domestic oil to help run our Nation's economy and to reduce our dependency on foreign oil, while providing protection of other resources and uses.

Drilling operations within present leases cannot be cancelled by the denial of an APD. The Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, and the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands of 1947, as amended, gives the BLM responsibility for oil and gas leasing on about 570 million acres of BLM, National Forest, and other Federal lands, as well as private lands where the Federal Government has retained mineral rights. Leasing areas are developed through BLM's planning process. The lessee has a right to drill for oil and gas within that lease as well as access to the proposed well site by a road. The selected route has to be reasonable and not cause unnecessary or undue degradation to the environment.

1.4 Conformance with BLM Land Use Plan(s):

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Ely District Approved Resource Management Plan (August 20, 2008), which states, "To provide for the responsible development of mineral resources to meet local, regional, and national needs, while providing for the protection of other resources and uses." In addition, "Timing limitations indicate that a leased area generally is open to development activities except during a specified period of time to protect identified resource values such as wildlife." (page 92).

Tiering

This document is tiered to by reference the Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (November 2007).

1.5 Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, or other Plans:

The Nye County Comprehensive Plan (April 5, 1994) does not specifically address oil and gas leasing. However, the proposed action is consistent with this Plan, which states (p.20) that "Nye County has a clear public interest in working with mining companies to accommodate cycles of growth and decline, and, where possible, reduce cost."

The application for permit to drill would be required to follow best management practices as outlined in the BLM oil and gas Gold Book, as well as, on-shore regulations, individual surface use plans, and conditions of approval that are part of the Decision Record (DR) for this environmental assessment and Findings of No Significant Impacts (FONSI), prepared for this site-specific project.

The access road siting and management would incorporate existing BLM standards regarding road design, construction, and maintenance such as those described in the BLM 9113 Manual (BLM 1985) and the *Surface Operating Standards for Oil and Gas Exploration and Development* (RMRCC 1989) (i.e., the Gold Book).

1.6 Identification of Issues:

An interdisciplinary (ID) team analyzed the potential effects of the proposed action and alternatives during internal scoping held on April 12, 2010. The following issues are being analyzed within this EA as a result of the combined scoping:

- Vegetative Resources
- Visual Resource Management (VRM)

A pre-drill, onsite, inspection was conducted on March 25, 2010 to evaluate whether there were cultural or other site specific resources which might be adversely affected at the proposed location. Conclusions are identified in the affected environment section of this EA.

A letter notifying interested public was mailed to those on the BLM Minerals mailing list. The public scoping and comment period began on April 15, 2010 and ends May 30, 2010.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 Proposed Action:

2.1.1 Introduction

Geyser Petroleum, Inc. proposes to drill a wildcat oil and gas well in T 10 N, R 57 E, section 32, approximately 8 miles southwest of Currant, Nye County, Nevada. Drilling operations would commence in June 2010, depending on weather and rig availability, and are expected to be completed within approximately one month. If the hole were unsuccessful, it would be immediately plugged and abandoned. Interim reclamation would begin simultaneously with abandonment procedures. Final earth works and

reseeding would be completed in approximately two years A minimum of two growing seasons are normally required to achieve vegetative success.

Should the well be successful, testing and production operations would last for several years. Production operations are generally handled through Sundry Notices (standard forms to notify or approve well operations subsequent to an APD) and associated permitting, unless they involve additional disturbance for which additional NEPA analysis is required. Typical activities include development of the well, installation of pumping and storage facilities, hauling of the oil to a process facility – usually one to two tanker truckloads per month, well servicing, and routine maintenance.

Site-specific actions were agreed upon during the March 25, 2010 on-site visit and are included in the proposed action. Standard Conditions of Approval (COAs) are included as Attachment 1 of this EA and would be followed.

The estimated surface disturbance for the proposed action consists of:

Road Construction	970 ft x 36 ft	0.8
Well pad	300 ft x 350 ft	2.4
Total		3.2 acres

2.1.2 Existing Roads and Access

The well site can be reached from Ely, Nevada, by proceeding southwest on US Highway 6 for approximately 50 miles to Currant, Nevada, then an additional 8 miles to the turnoff as shown on Figure 1. Angle right (northwest) and proceed for approximately 3.3 miles on an existing graveled roads, then right (southeast) for one half mile to the Santa Maria de Los Angeles #1well location. A new 970-foot long access road would be constructed from the north edge of the location pad northeastward to the Santa Maria de Los Angeles #2 well location.

No rights of way would be required for the proposed action, since no new disturbance would be created off the lease.

2.1.3 Access Road Construction

Due to the soft soil conditions on the Railroad Valley floor, the proposed 970-foot access road may require at least six inches of gravel compaction to accommodate vehicular traffic. The travel surface width would be 16 feet and total disturbance of approximately 36 feet. One turnout would be required for passing. No major road cuts, culverts, fence cuts, gates, or cattle guards would be required.

Existing vegetation may be mowed to provide mulch to increase the soil's fertility for reclamation. All available topsoil would be bladed off mixing in the mowed vegetation and furrowed to the left and right of the road.

The roads would be "crowned and ditched" by Gold Book standards (figure 4). Borrow ditches are created by pulling material from the sides and drifting it to the center of the road thus, elevating the roadbed. A layer of 6-12 inches of gravel would be spread over the entire 16-foot wide travel surface to reduce dust and rutting. The furrowed topsoil would then be re-spread across the two borrow ditches all the way to meet the road surface. It would be seeded immediately with the interim seed mix shown in Attachment 3, to curtail the introduction of invasive or noxious weeds.

Plans for improvement and/or maintenance of existing roads would be to maintain in as good or better conditions than at present. A regular maintenance plan would include, but not be limited to blading, ditching, and surfacing.

In order to protect wildlife, wild horses, livestock, and other animals, a 25 mph speed limit would be enforced on the new road.

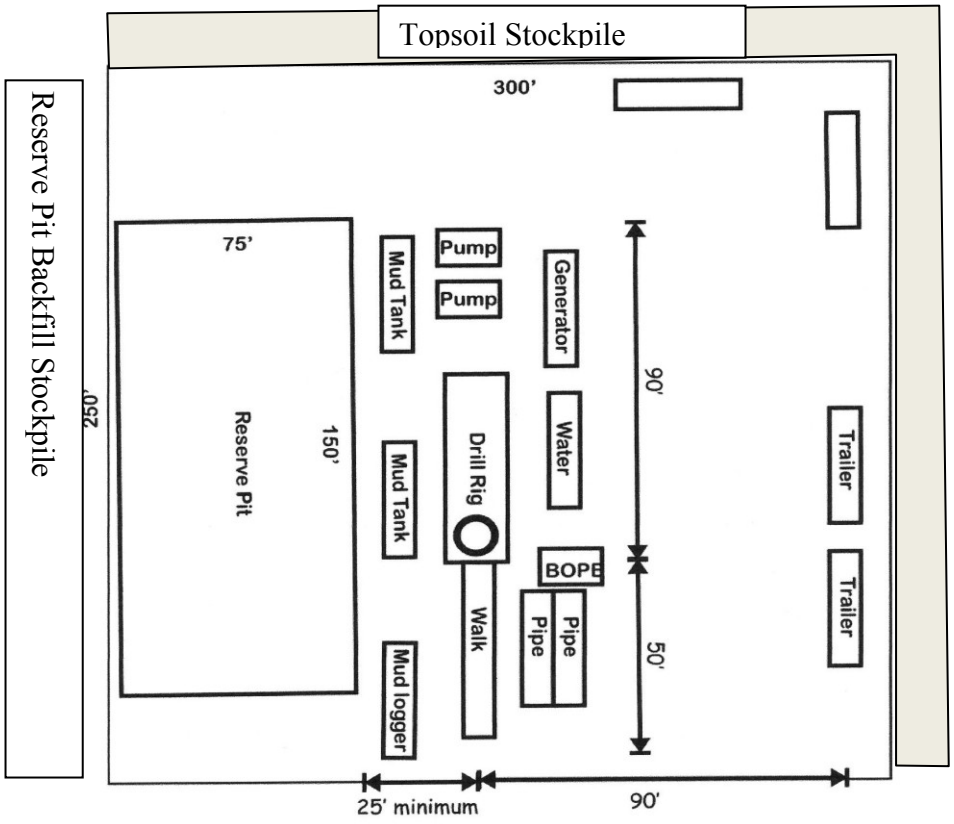
2.1.4 Well Site Layout

The well site layout is shown in Figure 2. The Santa Maria De Los Angeles #2 would be constructed on flat terrain. All available topsoil, approximately 12 inches, would be stripped from the location and stockpiled in a berm around the pad and segregated from the borrow fill from the reserve pit and any other excavations. It would be immediately seeded with the interim seed mix shown in Attachment 3 in an effort to preserve its fertility until final reclamation. The pad would be leveled, using material excavated from the reserve pit plus cuts and fills from the pad area itself, and then graveled.

The earthwork contractor would be provided with an approved copy of the surface use plan and stipulations for weed mitigation and prevention.

No permanent living facilities would be planned for the sites, but there would be trailers on location during drilling operations, which would serve as temporary offices and housing for the drilling supervisor and well site geologist.

Wellsite Layout



(Not to Scale)

Figure 2. Wellsite layout diagram for Santa Maria de Los Angeles #2. Relative location of features and stockpiles are subject to change depending upon the requirements of the contracted drill rig.

The 75' X 150' X 6' deep reserve pit would be designed to exclude surface runoff, would be constructed entirely in cut material, and would not be lined. It would be fenced on the three exposed sides during operations to prevent wildlife and livestock from falling into the pit. Once drilling operations are completed, the fourth side would be fenced and remain fenced until the reserve pit is backfilled. Recommended fencing diagrams are shown in Attachment 2.

2.1.5 Water Source

Water would be obtained from an existing artesian well (named Flowing Well), located in the northwest corner of section 32, T 10 N, R 57 E, one mile north of Santa Maria De Los Angeles #2. Water would be loaded into a water truck and hauled to the oil well location over existing graveled roads at a rate of about one to two loads per day. The water, used primarily for mixing mud, would be stored in tanks on the drill rig. Geyser Petroleum, Inc. estimates they would use a total of approximately 0.33-acre feet (100,000 gallons) of water for the project. An arrangement has been made with the local water rights holder. A temporary Use Permit is being obtained from the State Engineer.

2.1.6 Source of Construction Materials

As much gravel as possible would be stripped from the Santa Maria de Los Angeles #1well location and abandoned graveled access roads in the area that were authorized, but not previously stripped, for Santa Maria de Los Angeles #1. Additional gravel would be obtained under a sales contract from an existing borrow pit on BLM land located in section 34, T 10 N, R 57 E.

2.1.7 Waste Materials

Drill cuttings and drilling fluids would be contained in the reserve pit. The reserve pit and drilling fluids contained in the pit would be allowed to dry before backfilling. Pit walls would not be breeched to drain fluids to the surrounding surface.

Any spills of hydrocarbons from equipment on site would be promptly cleaned up and removed from the location in accordance with state and federal regulations. Proponent will immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer and the National Response Center at 687-9485 or 888 331-6337 (NDEP) on all spills/releases in which the reportable quantity for the particular compound is exceeded - 40 CFR part 302.

All wastes that accumulate during the drilling operations would be contained in a trash cage or dumpster. Wastes would be removed periodically from the location and taken to an approved landfill. Burning would not be allowed on the well site. Chemical toilets with holding tanks would be utilized. All sewage would be disposed of in accordance with county and state regulations.

A Sundry Notice and Report on Wells (form 3160-5) would be filed for approval for all changes of plans and other operations in accordance with 43 CFR 3162.

Staking, flagging materials, equipment, temporary facilities, litter and the proponent will remove all other project related materials within 15 working days following the project.

The proponent is required to post warning signs around project area and follow all traffic laws.

2.1.8 Location of Existing and/or Proposed Facilities if the Well is Productive

There are no existing production facilities within a one-mile radius of the proposed well. Producing wells of the Trap Springs Oil Field of Railroad Valley are located about two to three miles southwest of the proposed well. A refinery is located about five miles southwest of the proposed well.

If a Santa Maria de Los Angeles #2 were put into production, a Sundry Notice showing the location of tank batteries and production facilities would be submitted prior to operations. Facilities would be placed on the well site pad so that no additional disturbance would be necessary. Tanks and equipment would be painted with environmentally friendly colors suitable to help mitigate visual impacts within this VRM Class III area. Any production pits would be fenced to prevent wildlife entry. Production would be expected to last for several years.

2.1.9 Reclamation

Reclamation would begin concurrently with well site construction activities. Topsoil would be stockpiled along the perimeter of the drill pad. The stockpiles would be seeded immediately and again, if needed, during the first recommended seeding period (October 1 to March 15) with the interim seed mixture shown in Attachment 3. Available topsoil from the access road construction would be similarly stockpiled and seeded.

Well abandonment and plugging would follow the procedures of 43 CFR 3162.3-4 and recommendations in the Gold Book (2007). If a production well were not drilled, the location and surrounding area would be cleaned of all material and debris. All open holes would be backfilled and compacted from bottom to top immediately upon completion of drilling operations. The reserve pit would be completely fenced off and flagged on all four sides to prevent access by wildlife, wild horses, and livestock. Any oil spills remaining in the reserve pit after drilling operations would be removed prior to allowing pit drying to take place. All portions of the well pad not necessary for subsequent activities would be reclaimed, once the drill rig and equipment are removed, using the same procedures for final reclamation specified below.

When the reserve pit is dry, which normally takes one to two years, final dirt work would commence. The well pad and any other associated disturbed areas would be re-contoured to the approximate natural contours and blended into the adjacent undisturbed ground. Cuts and fills would be reduced to 3:1 slopes or less.

The compacted gravel from the well pad and constructed road would be removed and

hauled away to another location in an attempt to improve chances of revegetation. Any gravel remaining on the pad and road would be ripped and mixed with the underlying material. Compacted soils within the disturbed areas would be broken up into a fine-grained seedbed by disking or any other generally accepted method of preparation.

The stockpiled topsoil would be distributed the reclaimed to a minimum thickness of six inches The final surface would be left in a rough, pocked, condition to discourage vehicular traffic and better capture and hold moisture. Seed from the recommended final seed mix (Attachment 4) would be planted on contour with a drill seeder or broadcast technique during the recommended seeding period of October 1 to March 15.

The 970-foot access route would similarly be ripped, scarified, re-covered with a minimum of six inches of the stockpiled topsoil, and seeded with the same seed mixture recommended for the well pad. Road reclamation would be done concurrently with the well site reclamation and follow the same procedures.

If a successful production well were established, the reserve pit and areas not needed for production would be reclaimed. Final reclamation would be deferred until production is completed and the well is plugged and abandoned.

Geyser Petroleum, Inc. would be bonded as required under 43 CFR 3104.

2.1.10 Noxious Weed Prevention

The attached Weed Risk Assessment (Attachment 5) details the occurrence, risks, and procedures for the management of noxious and non-native, invasive. Geyser Petroleum, Inc. would implement the Ely District Office Noxious Weed Prevention SOPs for weed prevention, monitoring and treatments, with special emphasis on the following actions. Prior to entering the site, all construction, drilling equipment, and vehicles would be washed down and cleaned to prevent the importation of noxious weed seeds from prior places of work. Vehicles would stay on roads and avoid driving through any weed patches. All seeds used in reclamation would be certified weed-free. Geyser Petroleum, Inc. would monitor for noxious weeds during the life of the project, until reclamation is complete, and the reclamation fence is removed. Geyser Petroleum, Inc. would be responsible for the treatment and control of any noxious weed invasions.

2.1.11 Monitoring

Monitoring needed to assess reclamation success and continuing environmental stewardship would consist of periodic compliance inspections of the area during the life of the drilling operation by an authorized officer of the BLM. This monitoring would consist of checks on initial location of facilities, conformance to the APD and Conditions of Approval, and the status of any reclamation. Post-drilling compliance inspections would document, among other things, conformance with the proposed action, completion of earthworks of the reclamation plan, and monitoring for noxious weeds and vegetative

success. Should revegetation not be successful, seeding and/or planting would be repeated until satisfactory revegetation is accomplished, as determined by the authorized officer. Mulching, fertilizing, fencing, or other practices may be required. (Gold Book).

2.2 The No Action Alternative

The no action alternative, not to construct the oil and gas well pad and drill the wildcat well, is being analyzed in this EA in order to provide a baseline for comparison.

2.3 Other Alternatives Considered but not Analyzed in Detail

Other gravel sources and access routes were briefly looked at but not selected because of concerns over longer travel distances and additional disturbance.

2.4 Other Alternatives

No other alternatives are necessary to respond to unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

3.1 Introduction:

This chapter presents the potentially affected existing environment (i.e., the physical, biological, social, and economic values and resources) of the impact area.

3.2 General Setting:

Railroad Valley is located in northeastern Nye County, Nevada, approximately 58 miles southwest of Ely, Nevada. The project area is situated on the valley floor at an elevation of 4820 feet between the Grant Range to the southeast and the Pancake Range to the northwest. The present day valley floor was once a Pleistocene lake that dried up after the last ice age. The valley floor consists of loose eolian lacustrine-deposited material, which supports a salt desert shrub plant association dominated by black greasewood. Precipitation averages 6 to 8 inches per year. The photos in Figure 3 show the setting and typical vegetation at the Santa Maria de Los Angeles #2 well location.

Eastern Nye County is sparsely populated. Employment in the Currant area is largely based on agriculture, in the communities of Currant and Duckwater, and oil production in Railroad Valley. Ely, Nevada is the closest town to the project area that offers supplies and services.

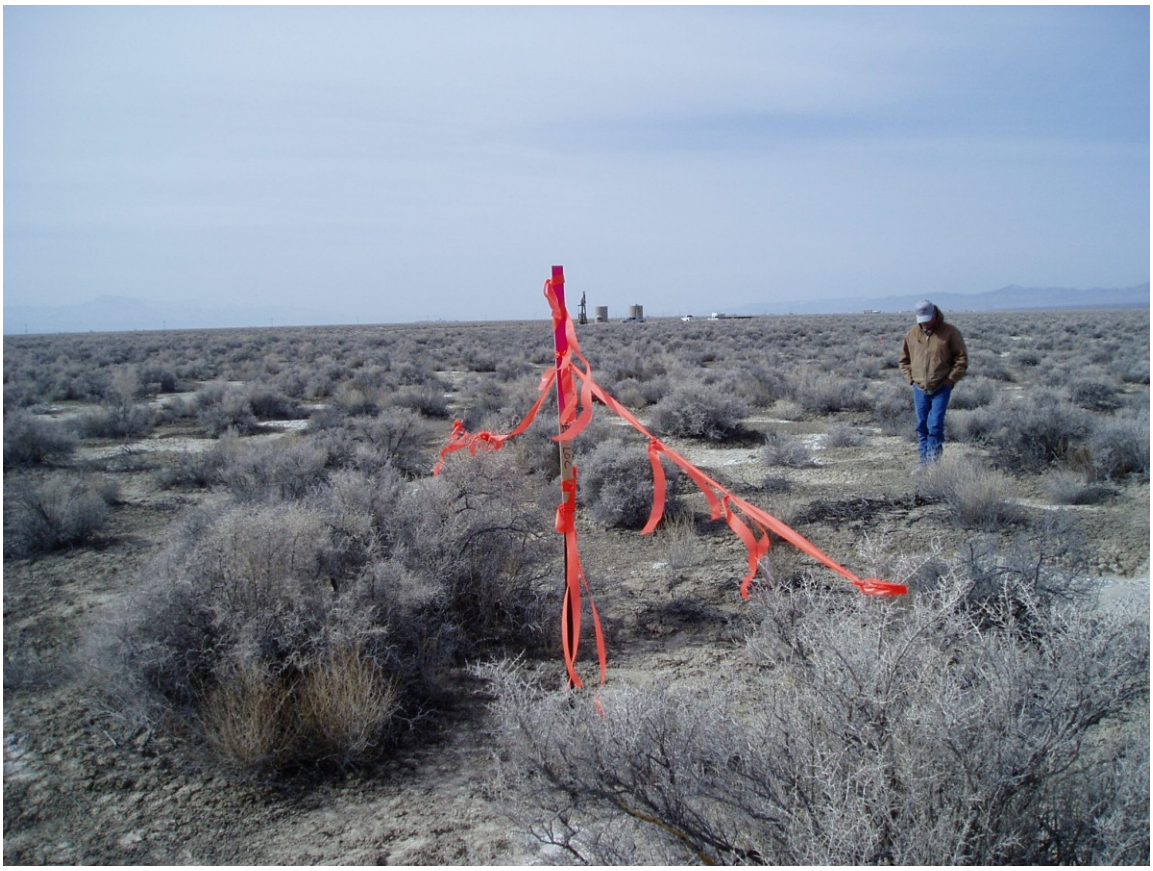


Figure 3: Photo of Santa Maria de Los Angeles #2 well location (foreground) looking SSW along access route to Santa Maria de Los Angeles #1 location (test tanks in background).

3.3 Resources/Concerns Analyzed:

The following items have been evaluated for the potential for significant impacts to occur, either directly, indirectly or cumulatively, due to implementation of the proposed action. Potential impacts were evaluated in accordance with criteria listed in section 1.6 of this paper to determine if detailed analysis was required. Consideration of some of these items is to ensure compliance with laws, statutes or Executive Orders that impose certain requirements upon all Federal actions. Other items are relevant to the management of public lands in general, and to the Ely District BLM in particular.

Resource/Concern	Issue(s) Analyzed? (Y/N)	Rationale for Dismissal from Analysis or Issue(s) Requiring Detailed Analysis
Air Quality*	N	The proposed project is not within an area of non-attainment or areas where total suspended

Resource/Concern	Issue(s) Analyzed? (Y/N)	Rationale for Dismissal from Analysis or Issue(s) Requiring Detailed Analysis
		particulates or other criteria pollutants exceed Nevada air quality standards. The proposed action would contribute to ambient dust in the air but the impact would be temporary and would not approach a level that would exceed any air quality standards. Site-specific examination of the project area revealed no concerns above those disclosed in the RMP/EIS (2007). Detailed analysis is not required.
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)/Special Designations*	N	Not Present
Cultural Resources*	N	A Class III cultural inventory was conducted over the proposed drill pad and access route on April 29, 2010. This inventory did not locate any cultural or paleontological resources.
Environmental Justice*	N	Concern is not present in project area. Health or environmental effects would disproportionately affect no minority or low-income groups.
Farmlands (Prime or Unique)*	N	Not verified
Floodplains*	N	Not present
Forest Health*	N	Project location occurs outside of forest and/or woodland areas.
Human Health and Safety*	N	Not affected by proposed action
Migratory Birds*	N	No surface disturbance will occur between April 15th and July 15th without conducting a bird survey.
Native American Religious and other Concerns*	N	No concerns known or identified through Tribal Coordination
Non-native Invasive and Noxious Species*	N	There are currently no mapped weed infestations within the project area. The noxious species hoary cress, white top, and Russian knapweed occur along roads and drainages near the project. The surface disturbance as a result of the project can promote weed establishment. However, the design features of the Proposed Action will help to prevent weeds from establishing or spreading. No additional analysis is needed. A weed risk assessment is included as Attachment 5.
Rangeland Health (Standards and Guidelines)*	N	Not affected by proposed action

Resource/Concern	Issue(s) Analyzed? (Y/N)	Rationale for Dismissal from Analysis or Issue(s) Requiring Detailed Analysis
Threatened and Endangered Species (FWS Listed or proposed for listing)*	N	Not known to be present
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid*	N	Mitigation measures are a part of the proposed action. Detailed analysis is not required.
Water Quality, Drinking/Ground*	N	There are no drinking water sources (surface or ground) in the project area.
Wetlands/Riparian Zones*	N	Not verified
Wild and Scenic Rivers*	N	Not present
Wilderness*	N	Not present. The Grant Range Wilderness area is approximately 7 miles southeast of the project area.
Fire Management	N	Not affected by proposed action
Fish and Wildlife	N	The project area is not within any sage grouse habitat or other crucial wildlife habitat, such as mule deer, pronghorn antelope and elk. Jackrabbits, cottontail rabbits, and other small mammal species along with birds and reptiles live in the area of proposed disturbance. They may be displaced or killed by the actions; however, the small area of disturbance should have minimal effects on populations.
Grazing Uses	N	The proposed well site is located within the Ike Springs/Ike Bench Use Area of the Duckwater Allotment. The Egan Field Office BLM permits a small amount of winter sheep grazing and summer/fall/winter cattle grazing in this use area, however sheep or cattle do not graze the proposed project area. The sparse vegetation provides little forage for livestock grazing. The 3.2 acres of disturbances will have little to no effect on Grazing Uses.
Lands	N	All new disturbances would be within the proponent's lease. No rights of way are required. No land use conflicts are apparent on the Master Title Plat for the project area.
Mineral Resources	N	Not present, other than the target potential oil occurrence.
Paleontological Resources	N	None found during the cultural survey or previously identified.

Resource/Concern	Issue(s) Analyzed? (Y/N)	Rationale for Dismissal from Analysis or Issue(s) Requiring Detailed Analysis
Recreation Uses (including Back country Byways, Caves, Rockhounding Areas)	N	There are no special recreation permits authorized or developed recreation sites within the proposed project area. Recreational casual use is expected to continue.
Socioeconomics	N	Proposed action would provide additional limited temporary employment in Railroad Valley
Special Status Animal Species, other than those listed or proposed by the FWS as Threatened or Endangered	N	Not known to be present
Special Status Plant Species, other than those listed or proposed by the FWS as Threatened or Endangered	N	Not known to be present
Transportation	N	Access from US 6 to the project area is along NDOT previously approved access
Forest/Woodland Products	N	Not present
Visual Resources	**Y**	The proposed project area is within VRM Class III. The Class III VRM objective is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the landscape. Changes caused by activities may be evident and begin to attract attention, but these changes should remain subordinate to the existing landscape, (BLM Manual, H-8410-1 Visual Resource Inventory). See Technical Report in administrative record.
Soil Resources	N	Topsoil would be salvaged, stockpiled, seeded, and replaced upon reclamation.
Vegetative Resources	Y	3.2 acres of salt desert shrub community would be disturbed. Analyzed in Potentially Affected Resources and Environmental Consequences sections

Resource/Concern	Issue(s) Analyzed? (Y/N)	Rationale for Dismissal from Analysis or Issue(s) Requiring Detailed Analysis
Water Resources (Water Rights)	N	A Temporary Use Permit is being obtained from the State Engineer.
Watershed Management	N	Not affected by proposed action
Wild Horses	N	The proposed well site is not located within a Wild Horse Herd Management Area (HMA).

3.5 Visual Resource Management (VRM):

3.5.1 Proposed Action - Affected Environment

The proposed project is located within a remote, uninhabited, portion of Nye County classified as Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class III view shed along Highway 6 approximately 58 miles southwest of Ely, Nevada. The well pad would be located approximately two miles northwest of the highway. Currently, there is a power line, a tank battery, two abandoned structures on private lands, stock tanks and other range improvements, fourteen former oil well locations and access roads within two miles of the proposed well pad.

3.5.2 Proposed Action - Environmental Effects

The drilling operation would be directly visible from US 6. Should the well be put into production, production facilities and activities would be visible for the life of the well. Reclamation and reseeding would reduce long-term visual impacts, although re-growth of the vegetation is expected to be slow. The contrasting visual effects of vegetation removal and reclamation would be noticeable for many years, until vegetation is sufficiently re-established to blend in with the surrounding undisturbed areas. Visual contrasts would be increased with the removal of vegetation; however, these additional effects would be minor in comparison with the overall existing visual impacts from the other oil wells in the area. To further reduce the visual impacts of the proposed project, a paint color should be chosen for the project components, using the BLM Standard Environmental Color Chart. The color should be consistent with the predominant natural features of the landscape.

3.5.3 No Action Alternative

Under the no action alternative, there would be no change to the characteristic landscape and the proposed project area would continue to meet the VRM Class III objectives.

3.6 Vegetative Resources

3.6.1 Proposed Action - Affected Environment

Figure 3 shows the flat topography and sparse vegetation of the project site. Precipitation averages 6" to 8" per year. The soils are a strongly alkaline loam formed on the Railroad Valley playa. The soil surface is a crusted to soft windblown silt. Native vegetation is a salt desert shrub plant association dominated by black greasewood. Other important shrubs present include rubber rabbitbrush, shadscale, green molly kochia, and a species of saltbush similar to four-wing saltbush. The principal understory grasses are saltgrass, basin wildrye, and alkali sacaton. Very small amounts of the invasive species mustard and halogeton are present in the project area and along access roads.

3.6.2 Proposed Action - Environmental Effects

It would be difficult to reestablish native vegetation in the disturbed area because of the low amount of precipitation and high soil alkalinity. Monitoring data and photographs show that past attempts over the last twenty years to reestablish native vegetation on oil well drill pads in this area of Railroad Valley have been unsuccessful. Productivity of the soil would be lessened due to loss of the soil structure during construction and reclamation activities. There would be a long term, perhaps permanent loss of as much as 3.2 acres of vegetation for livestock, stray wild horses, and wildlife. Should the well be placed into production, most of this acreage would be unavailable for several additional years. The interim and final reclamation measures of the proposed action would minimize the long-term impacts to vegetation.

3.6.3 No Action Alternative

Under the no action alternative, impacts as described above would not occur to the 3.2-acre project area.

4.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

4.1 Introduction:

As required under NEPA and the regulations implementing NEPA, this section analyzes potential cumulative impacts from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions combined with the Proposed Action within the area analyzed for impacts in Chapter 3 specific to the resources for which cumulative impacts may be anticipated. A cumulative impact is defined as "the impact which results from the incremental impact of the action, decision, or project when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time" (40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.7).

A comprehensive analysis of cumulative impacts are analyzed in the Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (November 2007) on p.4.28 to 4.36. Typical oil and gas activities, including exploration, wildcat drilling, production and field development, and abandonment, are described in the reasonable foreseeable development scenario (RFD) of that document and are incorporated by reference into this environmental analysis. No additional analysis is necessary to address cumulative impacts for the site-specific proposed action. The RFD anticipate 8,400 acres of disturbance and as many as 448 wells drilled for oil and gas exploration and development, (p. 4.36-1). Since approval of the Ely District RMP in August 2008, one oil well has been drilled (Sugarloaf No. 1-17), and three others permitted, but not drilled. This site specific EA tiers to, and incorporates by reference, the Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement.

4.2 Cumulative Effects Conclusion:

Resources that were identified as potentially being affected include visual resources and vegetation. The proposed action of 3.2 acres of surface disturbance is well within the scope of the RMP/EIS (2007). There would be effects to these resources from the proposed action in addition to Santa Maria de Los Angeles # 1 that was drilled by Geyser Petroleum, Inc. under an agreement in 2005. However the interim and final reclamation measures of the proposed action would minimize or eliminate the long-term impacts to vegetation.

4.3 Proposed Mitigation and Monitoring:

4.3.1 Proposed Mitigation

The preventative measures and procedures of the proposed action and the attached Standard Operating Procedures for Oil and Gas Operations Ely District, BLM (Attachment 1) are adequate to mitigate adverse effects to the human environment. No additional mitigating measures are proposed as a result of the impact analysis.

4.3.2 Proposed Monitoring

Appropriate monitoring has been included as part of the Proposed Action. No additional monitoring is proposed as a result of the impact analysis.

5.0 TRIBES INDIVIDUALS ORGANIZATIONS OR AGENCIES CONSULTED

5.1 Introduction:

The issue identification section of Chapter 1 provides the rationale for issues that were considered but not analyzed further and identifies those issues analyzed in detail in Chapter 3. The issues were identified through the public and agency involvement process described in sections 5.2 and 5.3 below.

5.2 Persons, Groups and Agencies Consulted:

Name	Purpose & Authority for Consultation or Coordination	Findings and Conclusions
Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)	Consultation for undertakings as required by the National Historic Preservation Act (16 USC 1531)	The cultural survey report was sent to SHPO with a determination of no adverse effect. No response was received within 30 days from the submission of any of the reports. Consultation is therefore considered to be closed.
Nevada Division of Water Resources	Water rights for Railroad Valley	Any water used on the described lands would be provided under a permit issued by the State Engineer.

5.3 Summary of Public Participation:

There is general public interest in this type of potential development. The APD was posted at the Nevada BLM State Office on receipt. A request for comments was sent to the Nevada State Clearinghouse on May 8, 2010. Letters requesting comments for inclusion in the EA were mailed to 82 interested parties on April 15, 2010. The preliminary EA is also posted on the Ely BLM website (http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely_field_office.html) for the public to review.

5.4 List of Preparers / Reviewers:

5.4.1 BLM

Name	Title	Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document
Bill Wilson	Consultant	Author
Dave Davis	Geologist	Project Lead, Minerals
Mindy Seal	Natural Resource Specialist	Vegetation; Noxious and Non- native Invasive Species
Mark Lowrie	Range Specialist	Range
Marian Lichtler	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife, Migratory birds, Special Status Species
Gina Jones	NEPA Coordinator	Environmental Justice, Environmental Coordinator, LUP
Mark D'Aversa	Hydrologist	Riparian/wetlands/soils/water resources
Cody Combs	Fire	Fuels
Melanie Peterson	Hazardous Material Coordinator	Wastes, Hazardous & Solid
Leslie Riley	Archeologist	Archeological/Historic Paleontological
Erin Rajala	Outdoor Recreation Planner	VRM, Recreation
Elvis Wall	Tribal Coordinator	Native American Religious Concerns

6.0 OTHER

6.1 Acronyms

ACEC- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
APD- Application Permit to Drill
BLM-Bureau of Land Management
CFR-Code of Federal Regulations
CX- categorical exclusion
DR-Decision Record
EA-Environmental Assessment
EIS-Environmental Impact Statement
FLPMA-Federal Land Policy and Management Act
FONSI-Finding of No Significant Impact
ID-Interdisciplinary
IM-Instructional Memorandum
NDOT- Nevada Department of Transportation
NDOW- Nevada Department of Wildlife
NEPA-National Environmental Policy Act
NOS- Notice of Staking

RMP-Resource Management Plan
ROW- Right Of Way
SHPO- Nevada State Historic Preservation Office
SN- Sundry Notice
US- United States
WRA- Weed Risk Assessment

6.2 References

BLM. 2007. Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement November 2007. USDI – BLM. Ely District Office.
BLM. 2008. Ely District Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan August 2008. USDI – BLM. Ely District Office.
BLM 9113 Manual. (BLM 1985) and the Surface Operating Standards for Oil and Gas Exploration and Development
CFR 2007. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 43, Part 1,000 to End, Revised as of October 1, 2007.
Executive Order 13212: 66 FR 28357 (22 May 2001), section 2, Actions To Expedite Energy-Related Projects.
FLPMA 1976. Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976.
Gold Book 2007. The Gold Book- Surface Operating Standards and Guidelines for Oil and Gas Exploration and Development, Fourth Edition-Revised 2007.
Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, Oil and Gas Well Information for Nevada Compiled by Ronald Hess, David Davis, and Karen Boldi, as of October 27, 2008
Nye County Public Land Management and Use Plan 1996, Policy 2, page 13.
NAC 534. Nevada Administrative Code, Underground Water and Wells, Chapter 534, revised December, 2006.
NEPA 1970. National Environmental Policy Act of 1970.

Attachment 1

Standard Operating Procedures for Oil and Gas Operations
Ely District, BLM

1. As well as the following site specific conditions of approval listed below, surface operations will follow the Surface Operating Standards and Guidelines for Oil and Gas Exploration, the Gold Book, and the Resource Program Best Management Practices contained in Appendix A, Section 1, of the Ely District Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan.

2. During pad construction, all available topsoil will be salvaged and stockpiled separately from any other material. The topsoil will be seeded immediately with the attached interim seed mix in order to stabilize the soil and help prevent the establishment of invasive and non-native weeds. An additional interim seeding may be required. Topsoil stockpiles will not be stored in place for more than 6 months at a time.

3. Final pad reclamation will consist of recontouring, ripping, re-spreading the topsoil, reseeding with the attached final seed mixture, and scarifying. Seeding is recommended between October 1 and March 15. The performance goal for successful revegetation is that the reclaimed area will have 100% of the perennial canopy cover of the existing adjacent plant cover, although it is not anticipated that this will be achieved during the current drought period. The site will be evaluated by the Ely BLM for vegetative progress after at least one full growing season. If not successful, the BLM reclamation specialist will review the reclamation procedures with the operator to decide on the best course of action.

4. Access road construction will include salvaging all available topsoil in a windrow along the edge of the road and immediately seeding it with the same interim seed mixture as used for the pad. Final reclamation will be similar to that for the location pad: regrading, ripping the road surface, recovering with the salvaged topsoil, final seeding. All of the newly constructed access road will be reclaimed.

5. Gravel used for pad or access road construction may be placed only after the underlying topsoil has been salvaged. Remove gravel prior to reclamation. Any remaining gravel left behind will be ripped so that is mixed with the underlying material prior to being covered with the stockpiled topsoil.

6. Off-lease new road construction, widening of existing access roads or other ground disturbance is not authorized without an approved Right of Way.

7. Hydrocarbons would not be allowed to accumulate in the reserve pit.

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8. Location sites shall be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times; litter shall be disposed of promptly at an authorized solid waste disposed site. "Litter" means all discarded matter including but not limited to trash, garbage, refuse, ashes and equipment. Site must be maintained and left in a clean and safe condition. Burning would not be allowed on the well site.

9. The permittee is responsible for clean-up and assumes liability for any and all releases of hazardous substances and or oil disposed on public land as defined in the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan (40 CFR 300). Proponent will immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer and the National Response Center at 687-9485 or 888 331-6337 (NDEP) on all spills/releases in which the reportable quantity for the particular compound is exceeded - 40 CFR part 302.

10. The operator will be responsible for complete control of any noxious weeds that become established within the project area during the life of this project through final reclamation. This would include the well location, access road, and gravel source. Measures for the prevention and control of noxious and invasive weeds are contained in the attached "Risk Assessment for Noxious & Invasive Weeds".

11. Operations commencing during the period April 15 to July 15 will be subject to the provisions of the BLM policy management actions for the conservation of migratory birds. A qualified wildlife biologist will survey the area for nesting migratory birds. If nesting birds are found, then appropriate mitigation measures will be developed.

12. A waiver must be obtained from the Nevada State Engineer's Office for use of water from a temporary on-site well or any existing water source not previously authorized for use for oil and gas exploration at this well location.

13. Should the oil well be put into production, as much of the well location, access road not needed for production will be immediately reclaimed using the final reclamation procedures, and seed mix.

14. The Authorized Officer will be notified within 5 days of completion of reclamation work so that timely compliance inspections can be completed.

15. If archeological resources or historic properties are discovered that could be damaged by project-related activities, all construction activities in the immediate vicinity will cease. The Ely BLM Authorized Officer will be immediately contacted to arrange an onsite inspection to determine measures that will be implemented to prevent unnecessary damage to the resource.

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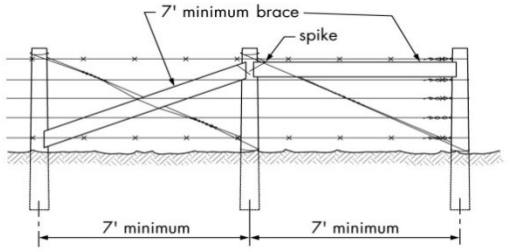
Attachment 2

Recommended construction standards for exclosure fences in livestock areas



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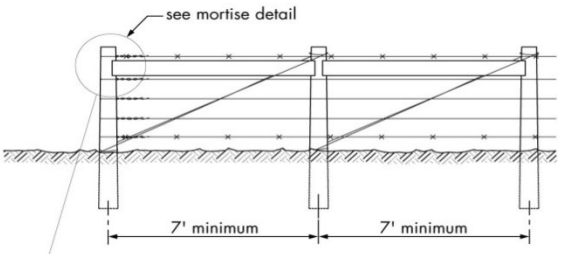

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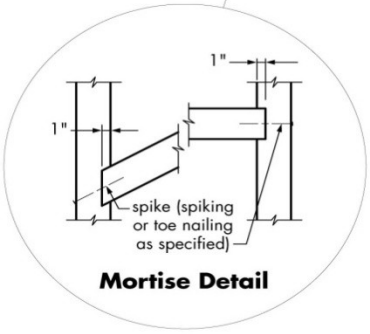
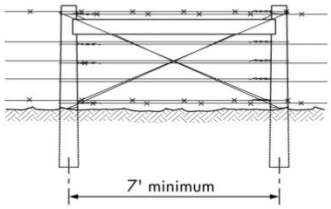
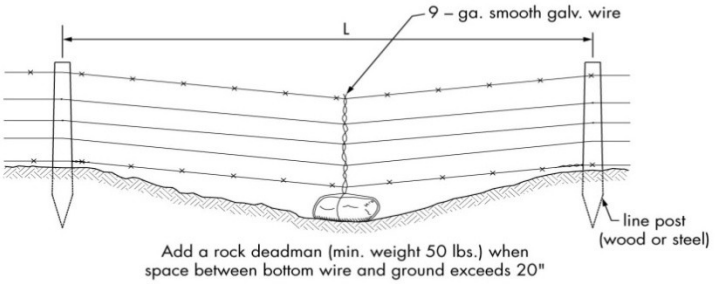


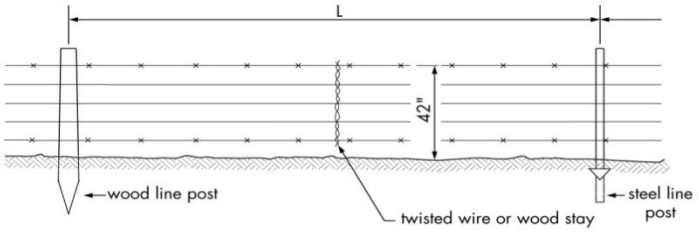
Mortise Detail



Stress Panel



Panel at Minor Depression



Line Panels

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Attachment 3

Interim Stabilization Seed Mix for Salt Desert Shrub Regions

Geyser Petroleum Inc., Santa Maria de Los Angeles #2
For Topsoil Stockpiles and Roadside Ditches

Species	**Seeds/Lb**	**Seed rate* lbs/ac**	**Seeds/sq ft**
Sporobolus airoides (Alkali sacatan)	1,758,000	0.4	16
Psathyrostachys juncea (Russian Wildrye, variety) Borzoisky Select:	175,000	5	20
Penstemon palmeri (Palmer penstemon)	610,000	1.0	14
Total		**6.4 lbs/ac**	**50 seeds/sq ft**

Seeds should be planted between October 1 and March 15.
Substitutions can be made depending on seed price and availability. Contact the BLM if substitutions are required.

* Seed rate - Adjust listed pounds/acre for pure live seed.

Pure Live Seed pounds/acre = Seed rate (listed above lbs/acre)
(%germination) (%purity)

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Attachment 4

Final Seed Mixture
Geyser Petroleum Inc., Santa Maria de Los Angeles #2
Recommended Final Seed List

Species	**Seeds/Lb**	**Seed rate lbs/ac**	**Seeds/sq ft**
Psathyrostachys juncea (Russian Wildrye, variety) Borzoisky Select:	175,000	2.5	10
Sitanion hystrix (Squirrel tail)	192,000	2.0	9
Oryzopsis hymenoides (Indian ricegrass)	141,000	3.0	9
Sporobolus airoides (Alkali sacatan)	1,758,000	0.2	8
Penstemon palmeri (Palmer penstemon)	610,000	0.5	7
Kochia prostrata (Kochia)	407,700	0.5	4
Atriplex canescens (Four wing saltbrush)	52,000	1.0	1
Atriplex confertifolia (Shadscale)	64,900	1.0	1
Total:		**10.7 lbs/ac**	**49 seeds/sq ft**

Seeds should be planted between November 1 and March 1.
Substitutions can be made depending on seed price and availability. Contact the BLM if substitutions are required.

* Seed rate - Adjust listed pounds/acre for pure live seed.

Pure Live Seed pounds/acre = Seed rate (listed above lbs/acre)
(%germination) (%purity)

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Attachment 5

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR NOXIOUS & INVASIVE WEEDS

Santa Maria Del Los Angeles #2 Oil Well

April 22, 2010 a Noxious & Invasive Weed Risk Assessment was completed for the Santa Maria #2 oil well project in Nye County, NV. Geyser Petroleum would like to expand their drilling operations in Railroad Valley by drilling an additional well on their current oil lease 1,000 feet to the north-northwest of the Santa Maria #1 drilled in 2007.

No field weed surveys were completed for this project. Instead the Ely District weed inventory data was consulted. There are currently no mapped weed infestations within the project area. The following species are found along roads or drainages leading to the project:

Lepidium latifolium	tall whitetop
Lepidium draba	whitetop/hoary cress
Tamarix spp	salt cedar
Acroptilon repens	Russian knapweed
Cirsium vulgare	bull thistle

There is also probably cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), halogeton (*Halogeton glomeratus*), horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*), and Russian thistle (*Salsola kali)* scattered along roads in the area. The project area was last inventoried for noxious weeds in 2009.

Factor 1 assesses the likelihood of noxious/invasive weed species spreading to the project area.

None (0)	Noxious/invasive weed species are not located within or adjacent to the project area. Project activity is not likely to result in the establishment of noxious/invasive weed species in the project area.
Low (1-3)	Noxious/invasive weed species are present in the areas adjacent to but not within the project area. Project activities can be implemented and prevent the spread of noxious/invasive weeds into the project area.
Moderate (4-7)	Noxious/invasive weed species located immediately adjacent to or within the project area. Project activities are likely to result in some areas becoming infested with noxious/invasive weed species even when preventative management actions are followed. Control measures are essential to prevent the spread of noxious/invasive weeds within the project area.
High (8-10)	Heavy infestations of noxious/invasive weeds are located within or immediately adjacent to the project area. Project activities, even with preventative management actions, are likely to result in the establishment and spread of noxious/invasive weeds on disturbed sites throughout much of the project area.

For this project, the factor rates as Moderate (5) at the present time. With the equipment being used for this project and the weed species in the area it is likely that part of the project area could become infested.

Factor 2 assesses the consequences of noxious/invasive weed establishment in the project area.

Low to Nonexistent (1-3)	None. No cumulative effects expected.
Moderate (4-7)	Possible adverse effects on site and possible expansion of infestation within the project area. Cumulative effects on native plant communities are likely but limited.

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High (8-10)	Obvious adverse effects within the project area and probable expansion of noxious/invasive weed infestations to areas outside the project area. Adverse cumulative effects on native plant communities are probable.

This project rates as High (8) at the present time. The project area is currently considered to be weed free so any new infestations would have adverse cumulative effects on the nearby native plant community. Also, an increase of cheatgrass could alter the fire regime in the area.

The Risk Rating is obtained by multiplying Factor 1 by Factor 2.

None (0)	Proceed as planned.
Low (1-10)	Proceed as planned. Initiate control treatment on noxious/invasive weed populations that get established in the area.
Moderate (11-49)	Develop preventative management measures for the proposed project to reduce the risk of introduction of spread of noxious/invasive weeds into the area. Preventative management measures should include modifying the project to include seeding the area to occupy disturbed sites with desirable species. Monitor the area for at least 3 consecutive years and provide for control of newly established populations of noxious/invasive weeds and follow-up treatment for previously treated infestations.
High (50-100)	Project must be modified to reduce risk level through preventative management measures, including seeding with desirable species to occupy disturbed site and controlling existing infestations of noxious/invasive weeds prior to project activity. Project must provide at least 5 consecutive years of monitoring. Projects must also provide for control of newly established populations of noxious/invasive weeds and follow-up treatment for previously treated infestations.

For this project, the Risk Rating is Moderate (40). This indicates that the project can proceed as planned as long as the following measures are followed:

- Prior to entering public lands, the contractor, operator, or permit holder will provide information and training regarding noxious weed management and identification to all personnel who will be affiliated with the implementation and maintenance phases of the project. The importance of preventing the spread of weeds to uninfested areas and importance of controlling existing populations of weeds will be explained.
- Monitoring will be conducted for a period no shorter than the life of the permit or until bond release and monitoring reports will be provided to the Ely District Office. If the presence and/or spread of noxious weeds is noted, appropriated weed control procedures will be determined in consultation with Ely District Office personnel and will be in compliance with the appropriate BLM Handbook sections and applicable laws and regulations. All weed control efforts on BLM-administered lands will be in compliance with BLM Handbook H-9011, H-9011-1 Chemical Pest Control, H-9014 Use of Biological Control Agents of Pests on Public Lands, and H-9015 Integrated Pest Management. Submission of Pesticide Use Proposals and Pesticide Application Records will be required.
- To eliminate the transport of vehicle-borne weed seeds, roots, or rhizomes all vehicles and heavy equipment used for the completion, maintenance, inspection, or monitoring of ground disturbing activities or for authorized off-road driving will be free of soil and debris capable of transporting weed propagules. All such vehicles and equipment will be cleaned with power or high pressure equipment prior to entering or leaving the work site or project area. Cleaning efforts will concentrate on tracks, feet and tires, and on the undercarriage. Special emphasis will be applied to axels, frames, cross members,

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motor mounts, on and underneath steps, running boards, and front bumper/brush guard assemblies. Vehicle cabs will be swept out and refuse will be disposed of in waste receptacles. Cleaning sites will be recorded using global positioning systems or other mutually acceptable equipment and provided to the District Weed Coordinator or designated contact person.

- To eliminate the introduction of noxious weed seeds, roots, or rhizomes all interim and final seed mixes, hay, straw, hay/straw, or other organic products used for reclamation or stabilization activities, feed, bedding will be certified free of plant species listed on the Nevada noxious weed list or specifically identified by the BLM Ely District Office.
- Removal and disturbance of vegetation would be kept to a minimum through construction site management (e.g. using previously disturbed areas and existing easements, limiting equipment/materials storage and staging area sites, etc.)
- Reclamation would normally be accomplished with native seeds only. These would be representative of the indigenous species present in the adjacent habitat. Rationale for potential seeding with selected nonnative species would be documented. Possible exceptions would include use of non-native species for a temporary cover crop to out-compete weeds. Where large acreages are burned by fires and seeding is required for erosion control, all native species could be cost prohibitive and/or unavailable. In all cases, seed mixes would be approves by the BLM Authorized Officer prior to planting.
- No noxious weeds will be allowed on the site at the time of reclamation release. Any noxious weeds that become established will be controlled.

Reviewed by: /s/Mindy Seal 4/22/2010

Mindy Seal Date
Natural Resource Specialist

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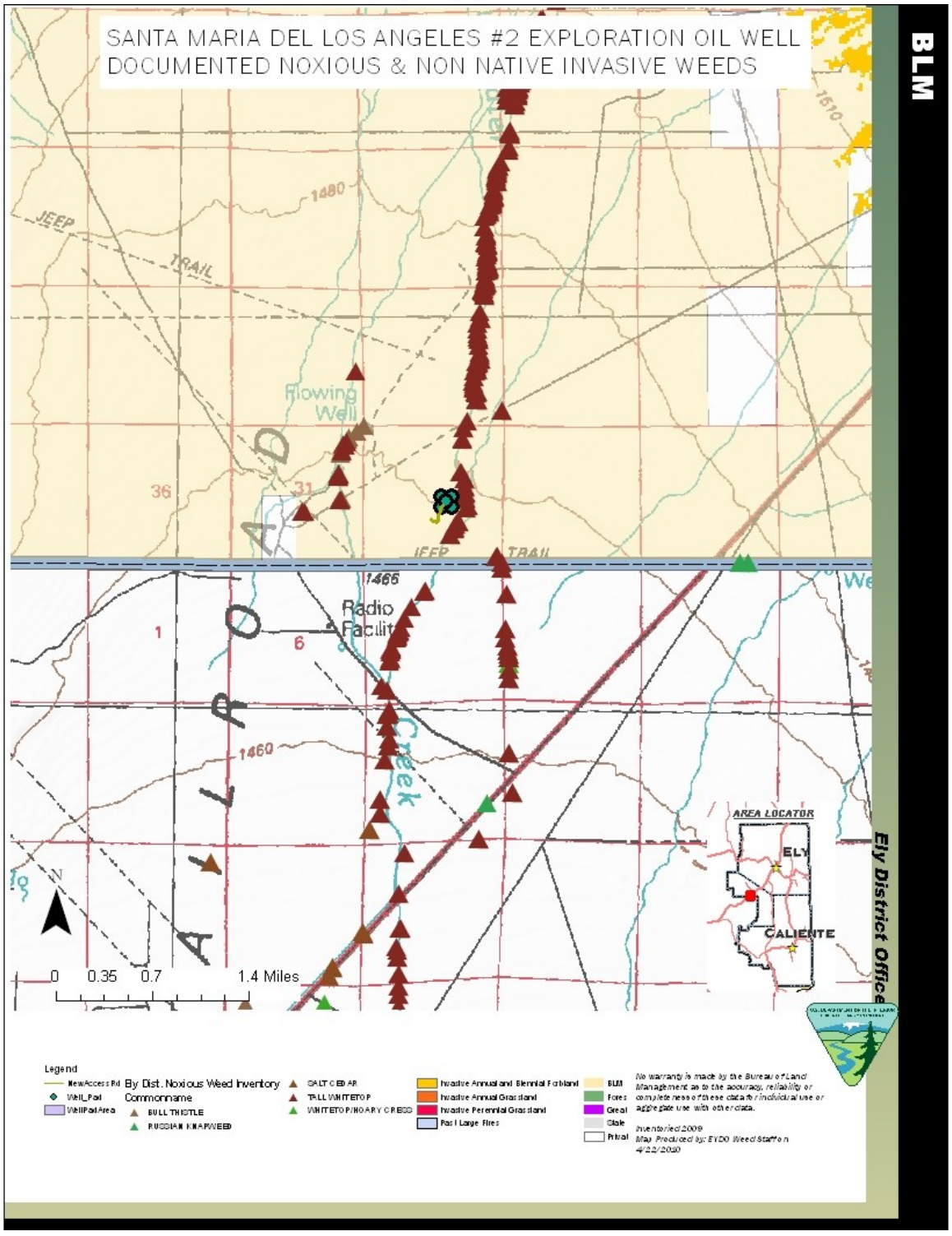

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